



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

Supervisor's Office
599 West Price River Drive
Price, UT 84501
Phone # (435) 637-2817
Fax # (435) 637-4940

File Code: 2820-4

Date: June 6, 2002

Mary Ann Wright
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

*Incoming
6/6/02
Copy Baron*

RE: Link Canyon Portal, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, SUFCO Mine, C/041/002-AM02E

Dear Mary Ann:

On April 19, 2002, we received the Mining and Reclamation Plan Amendment submitted to your office by Canyon Fuel Company, LLC proposing to reopen the old Link Canyon Mine Portal on Federal Coal Lease UTU-76195. The purpose of the proposal is to provide ventilation intake and an emergency escapeway for the SUFCO Mine and to provide additional electrical power needed for underground operations.

The proposal would involve surface disturbance of National Forest System lands and necessitate an environmental analysis prior to finalizing our review of the Mining and Reclamation Plan Amendment. Since there could be disturbance to riparian vegetation in Link Canyon, there are extraordinary circumstances, requiring documentation of the effects in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement.

Tom Lloyd, District Geologist, Ferron/Price Ranger District, has been assigned as the Interdisciplinary Team Leader, responsible for completing the analysis. Considering the required time for project scoping, preparation of an environmental document, and public reviews, we anticipate releasing a decision document in November or December 2002.

If you have any questions, contact Tom Lloyd at 435-384-2372 or Carter Reed at 435-637-2817.

Sincerely,

for Elaine J. Zieroth

ELAINE J. ZIEROTH
Forest Supervisor

RECEIVED

JUN 10 2002

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS AND MINING

